



NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC

AWESOME  
WEIRD-BUT-  
TRUE FACTS



COOL  
VALENTINE  
RECIPES

# KIDS

Extreme  
Dogs!

DARE TO EXPLORE  
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NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC

FEBRUARY 2009

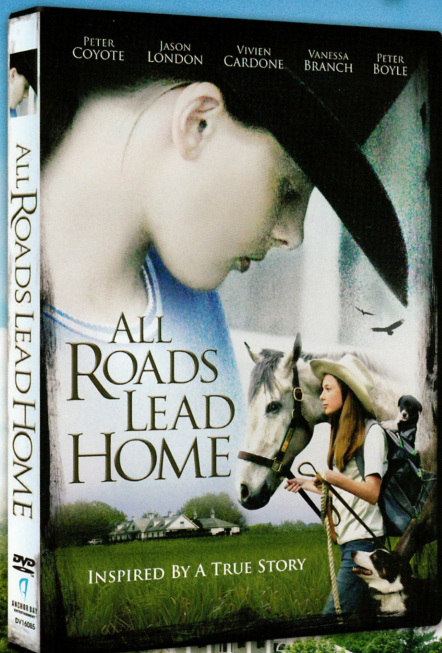
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# Be Inspired



Own **ALL ROADS**  
**LEAD HOME** on  
DVD January 13<sup>th</sup>!

After rebelling against her father, Belle (Vivien Cardone), an animal loving 12 year old, is sent to live on her grandfathers (Peter Coyote) horse farm. Here she finds that the animals are destroyed if they are bred wrong or can't turn a profit for the farm. Belle's work on the farm transforms the entire family. Life and death take on new meaning through mysterious pet deaths, budding romance, hidden motivations and the human need for love and understanding.

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BY JEFFREY WANDEL

# Check out these 10 outrageous facts.



THE  
EARTH  
TRAVELED  
MORE THAN

**5,000  
MILES**  
IN THE PAST  
5 MINUTES.

**A SNAIL**  
WOULD TAKE ABOUT  
220 HOURS  
TO CRAWL  
ONE MILE  
NONSTOP.



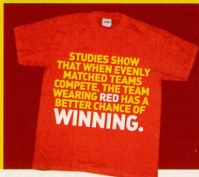
THE OLDEST  
CONTINUOUSLY  
STANDING TREE ON  
EARTH IS NEARLY  
**5,000 YEARS  
OLD**—ABOUT  
THE SAME AGE  
AS THE PYRAMIDS  
OF EGYPT.

YOU ARE MADE  
UP OF ABOUT  
**10  
TRILLION  
CELLS.**

THERE CAN BE  
ABOUT AS MANY  
**INSECTS**  
IN ONE SQUARE MILE  
AS THERE ARE PEOPLE  
ON THE ENTIRE  
**PLANET.**

A SAN FRANCISCO  
MAN USED 10,000  
**TOOTHPICKS**  
TO BUILD A  
FOUR-FOOT-LONG  
REMOTE-CONTROL  
**BOAT.**

THE WORLD'S  
FIRST  
HANDHELD  
CELL PHONE  
COST \$3,995.



STUDIES SHOW  
THAT WHEN EVENLY  
MATCHED TEAMS  
COMPETE, THE TEAM  
WEARING RED HAS A  
BETTER CHANCE OF  
**WINNING.**



THE  
**TALLEST VOLCANO  
ON  
MARS**

IS ABOUT  
**17**  
MILES HIGH.

THAT'S  
**61 TIMES**  
TALLER THAN THE  
110-STORY SEARS  
TOWER IN CHICAGO,  
ILLINOIS.

THE  
**BRIGHTEST  
LIGHT  
ON A HOTEL  
IS IN LAS  
VEGAS,  
NEVADA,**  
AND CAN BE  
SEEN FROM  
AIRPLANES  
250 MILES  
AWAY.

ASTONISHING  
STORIES FROM  
THE FILES OF

# Guinness World Records

## WORLD'S SMALLEST DOG

Boo Boo the long-haired Chihuahua may be small, but she has a big appetite. The pooch, who's the shortest dog by height on record, snacks on potato chips and enjoys a breakfast of ground turkey mixed with peas. Just four inches tall at the shoulders, Boo Boo is about as high as a cell phone. When she was born she was the size of her owner's thumb.

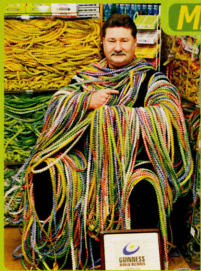


## RICH DESSERT

This better be one yummy after-dinner treat. At \$25,000, it holds the record for the *most expensive* dessert. The Frrrozen Haute Chocolate (*haute* means high-class, not hot) is a slushy mix of the world's most expensive cocoas, milk, and edible gold. If you need a souvenir, you can take home the spoon: It's made of 18-carat gold and studded with white, black, and chocolate-colored diamonds.



## MILES OF GUM WRAPPERS



It's the ultimate recycling project: Instead of throwing away his gum wrappers, Gary Duschl has been folding them together for more than 40 years, creating a gum wrapper chain that stretches about 10 miles, the longest on record. So far the chain has more than 1.2 million wrappers linked together, and Duschl keeps adding. He doesn't chew *all* the gum himself—many wrappers were donated.

Go online for more information about Guinness World Records!  
[kids.nationalgeographic.com/Videos](http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/Videos)



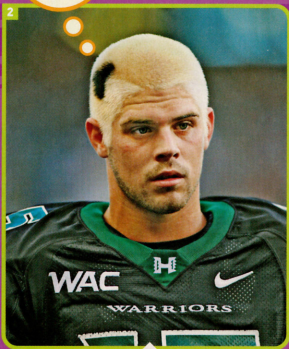
# sports funnies

uh-oh!

OOPS,  
I GUESS  
I MISSED  
A SPOT.



WHY? WHY  
DO I HAVE TO  
WAIT SO LONG  
FOR THE NEXT  
HARRY POTTER  
MOVIE?



Sporting a map of Hawaii's Big Island on his head, University of Hawaii quarter-back Colt Brennan appears in a 2007 football game in Honolulu, Hawaii.

NOW  
YOU CAN  
NOMINATE  
ONLINE!



HUGGABLE HEROES  
*Kids Doing Their Part With Heart*

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you can go to  
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to find out how you can nominate  
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HUGGABLE HERO!

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making a difference in your community?

If so, they could be one of  
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\$10,000 IN PRIZES!**

(\$10,000 is approximate – a \$7,500 college scholarship, \$2,500  
donation for their special cause and other pawsome rewards.  
Prizes awarded in local currency.)

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR TO WIN. Entry to the Contest is free. Purchase will not increase your chance of winning. The Build-A-Bear Workshop® Huggable Heroes® Contest begins 12:00:01 a.m. ET on Tuesday, January 16, 2009 & ends 11:59:59 p.m. ET February 27, 2009. Subject to the Official Rules available with Contest Entry forms or online at participating Build-A-Bear Workshop locations in the U.S., D.C., Puerto Rico & Canada or online at [www.buildabear.com](http://www.buildabear.com) for U.S. residents or [www.buildabear.ca](http://www.buildabear.ca) for Canada residents. **TWO WAYS TO ENTER ONLINE:** Log onto [www.buildabear.com/huggableheroes](http://www.buildabear.com/huggableheroes) (U.S. residents) or [www.buildabear.ca/huggableheroes](http://www.buildabear.ca/huggableheroes) (CAN residents), follow the links to the contest area and complete the registration form. **BY MAIL:** Complete the Official Entry Form along with your short answer responses to the community service questions. (Send printed or typed and/or a signature check of page 1 needed) about someone or yourself who has made/makes a difference in the quality of life in their community and/or around the world. Mail to "Huggable Heroes Contest Entry," c/o one of the following addresses: U.S./D.C./P.R.: PO Box 60200, Manhattan, NY 11202-0200; CAN: P.O. Box 120011, 5574 Yonge Street, North York, Ontario, M2N 6K6, Canada. Entries must be postmarked by February 27, 2009 & received by March 4, 2009. Entries must include consent of Nominee and Nominator, and consent of parent/guardian of a Nominator and Nominator if either is not of age of majority in their state/province of residence. Nominator and Nominee must be legal residents of the U.S./United States, D.C./P.R. or Canada. Nominator must be 7 years of age or older. Nominee must be between the ages of 7 – 18 as of February 27, 2009. Subject to all applicable federal, state, provincial and local laws, regulations, kind awards the U.S., P.R. and CAN and where prohibited. **PRIZES:** Twelve (12) Huggable Heroes Grand Prizes (10 from the U.S./D.C./P.R. and 2 from CAN); a \$7,500 USD educational expense scholarship; a \$2,500 USD donation toward Nominor's designated 501(c)(3) charity or a registered Canadian charity from the Build-A-Bear Workshop Foundation; a trip to a U.S. city chosen by Sponsor at a designated time in July 2009 for Nominee and one (one) based for a professional photo shoot; and the potential to be featured in the Build-A-Bear Workshop 2010 calendar. This includes monthly standard class sets; minimum of two (2) night double occupancy standard hotel accommodations; and ground transportation by Private car/van/limo. Approximate Retail Value (ARV): \$14,000 USD each. (USD) Travel Prizes: 8 \$500 Build-A-Bear Workshop® Bear Buys® gift card, ARV: \$50 USD each. up to 200 Standard Prizes: 8 \$75 Build-A-Bear Workshop® Bear Buys® gift card, ARV: \$75 USD each. Total ARV of all prizes: \$174,720 USD. Prizes awarded to winning Nominor or parent/guardian on behalf of winning Nominor if a minor.

Many will enter but only 12 will win a Grand Prize.  
Sponsor: Build-A-Bear Workshop, Inc., 1754 Inverhill Business Center Drive, St. Louis, MO 63114.



Tampa Bay Ray Scott Kazmir unknowingly wears a gum bubble on his hat blown by teammate Jonny Gomes during a 2007 baseball game in Florida.

© DANIEL DAL ZENNARO / EPA / CORBIS (1); © JORDAN MURPHY / ICON SM / CORBIS (2); REUTERS / STEVE NESIUS (3); REUTERS / SÉRGIO MORAES (4)

**PHEW!  
WHEN'S THE  
LAST TIME YOU  
TOOK A  
BATH?**



France's Sandra Le Dréan (left) is blocked by Petra Kulichova of the Czech Republic at the 2006 FIBA World Championship for Women, in Brazil.

# HELP REAL PETS AT BUILD-A-BEAR WORKSHOP JACK RUSSELL TERRIER

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January 9!*  
(while quantities last)



When you buy this or any of our full-sized Bearemy's Kennel Pals® friends \$1 will be donated to local animal shelters and stray pet rescue and rehabilitation organizations.

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an animal  
price \$10 or more



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# COOL inventions

BY DOUGLAS E. RICHARDS

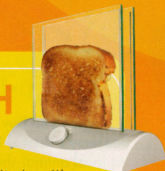
## FOLD-UP PLANE

Can't decide if you want to go boating, fly in a private plane, or take a drive? With the ICON A5 sport airplane you can do all three. Its wings fold back, so you can pull it on a trailer behind the car if you're driving. Designed to be easy to pilot, with lots of safety features, the A5 can fly up to 120 miles an hour using ordinary gasoline. And it can take off and land on both land and water. Now you and your dad can fly to your favorite lake 200 miles away, get in a few hours of fishing, and easily make it home for dinner. Is there anything the A5 can't do? Well, it can't catch fish. For that, you and your dad are on your own.



## SEE-THROUGH TOASTER

You've probably forgotten to adjust the toaster setting properly and ended up with burnt toast hard enough to hammer nails. Or maybe the bread has popped up before it was barely brown at all. That's because English muffins, frozen waffles, bagels, and even different types of bread all have different moisture content and require different settings. Get ready to say goodbye to still-cold waffles and charred bagels forever. With the see-through toaster—just a concept for now—it'll be as simple as watching what you're toasting until it achieves the perfect shade of brown. Best thing since sliced bread.



## SINGING WALLPAPER

You're listening to loud music in your room when your mom knocks on the door. "Turn down your wallpaper!" she says. No, there aren't any speakers in your wallpaper—the speakers are your wallpaper. Certain materials, such as quartz and other crystals, have the ability to convert electricity into sound. Using these materials, scientists at Johns Hopkins University have invented a flexible film that is thinner than paper and someday may be capable of turning every wall in your house into a speaker. Rock on!



COURTESY OF ICON AIRCRAFT AIRPLANE. BOTH. COURTESY OF INVENTALES TOASTER. © BRAND X PICTURES / JAMTHINKS (GIRLS)



# video game CENTRAL

BY MARK MACDONALD

## GAME NIGHT!

Next time you're having a family fun night or a few friends over, grab your game controllers for a change from board games and cards. Everyone will want a turn with these games!



## YOU'RE IN THE MOVIES

**Xbox 360**

Instead of just watching a movie, why not make your own? You're in the Movies makes it easy—and fun. Just do whatever the mini-games ask (dance from side to side, rock like you're twirling a hula hoop) in front of your Xbox 360's camera, and the game will cut you out of the footage and place you into any of several pre-recorded movie clips. And if you want to get more hands-on, you can change the music, edit your clips, or add a voice-over.

**>> TIP #1** If you want to easily add a certain feeling to your movie, try changing the speed of your clip. You can make anything seem more serious with slow-motion, or downright goofy by speeding things up.

**>> TIP #2** Once you get the hang of the game, try creating your own voice-over tracks to change the tone of your movies. See if you can make a horror clip feel like a comedy, and vice versa.

## MONOPOLY

**Wii**

Play *Monopoly* a fun new way. Think the game takes too long? Try the new Richest Mode: You deal in

properties instead of money, and can complete a game in half an hour. Try new *Monopoly* boards like one from the future or another made out of candy. Compete in mini-games like a Get-Out-of-Jail contest: You move the Wii remote back and forth to saw through your cell bars and escape.



**>> TIP #1** To fill your passport and unlock boards quickly, play as a Developer in Richest Mode. Switch to new boards as soon as they unlock and play again.

**>> TIP #2** In the Go-to-Jail mini-game, run as fast as you can when the game starts. As you reach your top speed, press jump and hold it down. You'll skip at full speed all the way to the end.

## DISNEY SING IT!

**Wii, PS3, Xbox 360**

Maybe you already sing along to music in the shower or in the car. Now you can earn points for singing. This game judges how well you can belt out all your favorite Disney tunes, including songs from *High School Musical 1* and *2*, *Hannah Montana*, *Camp Rock*, and *Corbin Bleu*. You can perform duets or choose your part in songs with multiple singers. If you can't hit the right notes, try the tutorial mode to learn the same techniques the pros use to perfect your pitch.



**>> TIP #1** Sing 65% of the notes correctly for two pages to raise your score multiplier to 2x, then 80% correctly for four pages for 3x, and finally 90% for four more pages for the ultimate 4x bonus.

**>> TIP #2** Apply the seven skins you find in the Personalize menu on your console to give the game a new look.

# Stupid Criminals

BY ERIN TAYLOR MONRONEY

**BUSTED!**



## Sound Asleep

BURNLEY, ENGLAND, IN THE UNITED KINGDOM ▲

This criminal must have thought he was having a bad dream when he woke up in front of the cops. A woman had called police after waking up one morning to strange noises. When police arrived, they discovered the noises were from a burglar sacked out on the woman's couch. Apparently the bad guy broke in the night before, stuffed his pants with jewelry—then decided to take a nap before escaping. Guess if you snooze, you lose.



## Snagged

WICHITA, KANSAS ▶

This guy wasn't only arrested—he was nailed! When police arrived on the scene of a suspected robbery, they realized the burglar was still inside the building. So they waited by a back door with a suspicious hole in it. Suddenly, stolen items came flying out of the hole, and the burglar soon followed. But as he tried to crawl out of the hole, his pants snagged on a nail and he had to leave them behind. The police waiting for the crook nabbed him, minus his pants.



## Next in Line

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS ▲

If you're dumb enough to rob a bank, you're probably dumb enough not to notice the police officer standing behind you. The would-be bank robber drew odd looks as he waited in line wearing white gloves and a scarf over his face, so a uniformed officer quietly walked up behind him. The robber was so busy passing the teller a note demanding big bills and "no funny money" that he didn't notice the officer. When the teller handed over the cash, the officer arrested the crook. Sometimes standing in line is worth the wait.

Bet you  
**didn't  
know**

BY ERIN WHITMER

# **7** heart- pumping **facts**

**1** Ancient Egyptians  
believed that a person's  
**soul was** in the  
**located** heart.

**3** About  
**eight billion**  
conversation  
**heart**  
**candies**  
are produced every  
year—enough to  
wrap around the  
**moon** more  
than nine times.

**5** A woman's heart  
usually **beats**  
**faster**  
than a man's heart.

**2** There's a  
**heart-shaped**  
**coral reef**  
in Australia.

**4** Octopuses  
have **three**  
**hearts.**

**6** It would take  
more than **1,500**  
**human hearts**  
to equal the weight  
of a **blue**  
**whale's**  
**heart.**

**7** An  
**astronaut's**  
**heartbeat**  
slows down in  
**outer**  
**space.**



# Wildlife WATCH

BY JENNIFER WEEKS

WANNA  
PLAY LEAP  
LIZARD?

## WHERE BLUE IGUANAS LIVE



Baby blue iguanas are not able to turn blue until they're older.

## Saving the Blue Iguana

**T**hese baby blue iguanas are a reason to celebrate. Found only on the Caribbean island of Grand Cayman, in the Cayman Islands, they are one of the most endangered species of lizard in the world. The dragon-like creatures can grow up to five feet long and turn bright blue (below). But they can't protect themselves against threats such as the houses and roads being built in their shrubland habitat. Young iguanas are also a tasty snack for predators such as snakes, cats, and dogs.

### RESCUE 911

When the number of wild blue iguanas dropped to fewer than 25 several years ago, wildlife experts took action. They began breeding blues in captivity on Grand Cayman and at zoos in the United States. As soon as the baby iguanas were big and fast enough to escape predators—at about two years old—the scientists prepared to release them into the wild.

### HOME FREE

The experts implanted harmless microchips under the young lizards' skin and photographed the iguanas' head scales, which have unique patterns just like human fingerprints. That way the scientists could identify and track the iguanas in the wild. The program has been so successful that 270 wild blue iguanas now live on the island. Experts say that if they can boost the wild population to at least a thousand and protect more of their habitat, there will be blue skies ahead for these living "dragons."

## WHY SO BLUE?

An adult blue iguana's skin is usually gray in the morning. As daylight warms the cold-blooded animal, it turns light blue. During mating season, males turn even brighter blue (left) to attract females.

The blue iguana has a third eye on top of its head that detects light.



# Just Joking

**KNOCK,  
KNOCK.**

Who's there?  
Kenya.  
Kenya who?  
Kenya guess  
who it is?



**TONGUE  
TWISTER!**



Say this fast three times:

**Silly snowmen slip like  
soap down slopes.**

**Q**

**What goes  
zzub zzub?**

A bee flying  
backward.

**A**

**Q**

How do you know if there's an  
elephant under your bed?



You bump your nose  
on the ceiling.

**A**

**You've got to be joking...**

**Q**

What's in the  
**middle**  
of a  
**jellyfish?**



A jellybuton.

**A**

# green scene

BY JILL YAWORSKI

## MAKE A 3-D VALENTINE!

**B**e sweet to your loved ones *and* the Earth this Valentine's Day. Turn everyday items around your house into something heartfelt. Show how much you care about the environment by creating recycled cards for your family and friends.

### YOU WILL NEED

- heart-shaped cookie cutter
- bowl of water
- old newspaper or leftover tissue paper
- glue wash (equal parts glue and water)
- paintbrush
- scissors
- an old greeting card
- a clean plate

### WHAT TO DO

- 1 Tear newspaper or tissue paper into small pieces. Place the cookie cutter on the plate. Making sure each piece overlaps, position a few pieces of the paper inside the cookie cutter to create a thin layer. Dip your finger into the bowl of water and then press it gently on the paper layer, making the paper damp. Continue layering, dipping, and pressing until the cookie cutter is about half full. Let it dry for at least a day.
- 2 When the paper mold is completely dry, gently press down on the mold and carefully lift off the cookie cutter. Using a clean paintbrush, apply a light coat of glue wash to the mold. As it dries, move on to step three.
- 3 Cover an old greeting card with things from around the house—such as construction paper, magazines, newspapers, or doilies. Write a poem or message inside the card and then glue the 3-D heart to the front. Now you're ready to give this Earth-friendly valentine to someone you love!

There are two towns in the U.S. named Valentine—in Nebraska and Texas.

People in the United States send about a billion Valentine's Day cards each year.

For more about helping the Earth, go online, [preserveyourplanet.com](http://preserveyourplanet.com)



# eXtreme SPORT

## MOUNTAIN UNICYCLING

BY LAURA DAILY

**T**hink off-road biking is hard? Try doing it on one wheel!

A mountain unicycle—called a muni—takes on the hills, boulders, streams, and loose dirt that regular mountain bikes do. Equipped with an extra-wide knobby tire, munis go anyplace that a mountain bike can go.

Mountain unicycling is rougher and tougher than mountain biking. Munis don't have brakes to help control your speed, and they don't coast, so you have to pedal the entire time. Plus cyclists take their lumps—and bumps—because they have to stay seated. They can't stand up and glide over rocks and logs like mountain bike riders.

"It's not about speed," says John Foss, a onetime muni champion. "It's about just staying on the unicycle!"

### Get Fit!

Unicyclists need good balance. With a parent's OK, find a long, straight piece of wood two inches high by four inches wide. Set the wood on the ground with the wider side flat. Walk heel to toe to the end. Repeat. To make it harder, move the board to an incline such as a driveway.

© HARRISON SHULL / AURORA PHOTOS / CORBIS

# Amazing Animals

Dog

Helps

Cheetah

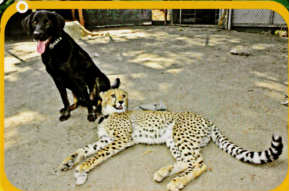
## Escondido, California

Every star needs a posse to help calm them in front of fans. Majani the cheetah has Clifford the Labrador retriever mix. "Cheetahs are naturally skittish," says animal trainer Susie Ekard, who works with Majani to appear in presentations at the San Diego Wild Animal Park. "Clifford has helped turn the cheetah into a more relaxed cat."

It all started six years ago when Ekard was walking the leashed animals to an event. On the way, Majani spotted one of the park's large green trash cans...and froze. "He was like, 'That big green monster is going to eat me,'" Ekard says. Clifford, however, ran ahead, sniffing the can unafraid. "Must be OK," Majani may have thought, and resumed his trot. Since then, Clifford has accompanied Majani on all his gigs. Now the once fearful feline always acts like a cool cat.

—Aline Alexander Newman

I THINK  
MAJANI MAY  
BE MORE  
POPULAR THAN  
MILEY CYRUS.



## OWL RIDES BIKE

### Eccleshall, England, in the United Kingdom

Treacle the owl has a strange hobby: He's a biking fanatic. Gentleshaw Wildlife Centre owner Jenny Morgan wondered if the lazy Treacle, who has lived at the center since he was a chick, would like riding on her bike. She set him on the handlebars, where he happily perched while she pedaled. Now she and her feathered friend ride together a couple of times a week. He usually just watches the scenery go by—except when the ride gets bumpy. Then he turns his head to stare at her! Could cycling become a favorite activity of the other captive birds? Not likely. "The birds give Treacle a rather odd look," Morgan says. "It's not exactly a normal hobby for an owl."  
—Elisabeth Deffner



ANYONE  
KNOW WHERE  
I CAN GET  
AN OWL-SIZE  
HELMET?



Treacle's  
owner doesn't  
allow him to ride  
all the time. He  
needs to fly to  
exercise his  
wings.

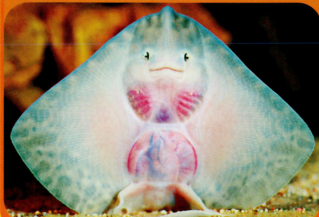
Majani and Clifford

Treacle

Sunshine



## ALIEN INVADES AQUARIUM?



### Southsea, England, in the United Kingdom

This creature has a secret. It's not that it's an alien from another planet. The secret is that although the creature—a baby thornback ray—appears to have a happy face, she doesn't have a face at all! What you see here is actually two nostrils and a mouth on the ray's underside. Nicknamed "Little Ray of Sunshine" by keepers at Blue Reef Aquarium, the ray spends most of her time hiding under sand. So like other rays, her eyes are on the topside of her body to watch for prey. But Sunshine had spotted a worker who feeds her and swam up against the side of the tank to grab some grub. Sunshine may not really be smiling, but she sure seems glad that it's dinnertime.

—Heather E. Schwartz





THESE DOGS LIKE EXTREME SPORTS, BUT OTHERS MAY NOT. *NEVER* FORCE YOUR PET TO DO SOMETHING IT DOES NOT WANT TO DO.

HANG  
20,  
DAWGS!

AN ADVENTUROUS  
DOG WAKEBOARDS  
WITH A HUMAN  
PARTNER.

WEARING GOG-  
GLES, BANDIT  
THE BIKER DOG  
CATCHES SOME  
WAVES WITH  
HIS BUD R.J.  
AT A SURF DOG  
COMPETITION.

# EXTREME

# OGs!

BY RUTH A. MUSGRAVE

DOG  
PADDLING

OR A GAME OF FETCH  
JUST WON'T CUT IT FOR THESE  
ADVENTUROUS ANIMALS.

ROCKY FEELS THE  
BREEZE ON HIS  
OWN PERSONAL  
WINDSURFING  
BOARD.



## BOWWOW-ABUNGA!

There's a new breed of dog in town: the extreme dog! While most pooches act as if sneaking food from the table is living dangerously, some aren't happy unless they're catching awesome waves or cruising a thousand feet in the air.

Take Bandit the Boston terrier. He digs his California lifestyle so much that he surfs whenever he gets the chance. Owner Mark Shaffer knows Bandit is ready to paddle out to gnarly waves when the pooch puts his paws on the board. And it's no surprise to Shaffer that Bandit craves the waves. The dog's first love is riding motorcycles. "That's where he learned to balance and lean into a turn," Shaffer says of his pet, whose full name is, of course, Bandit the Biker Dog.

"Dogs like Bandit are unique individuals," veterinary behaviorist Jacqui Neilson says. "Like people, dogs that enjoy daring activities have a special personality, talent, or athletic ability."

© PETER BEVE / ZETA / CORBIS (BIG PHOTO);  
JAMIE BUDGE PHOTOS / PHOTOGRAPHERS DIRECT  
(ROCKY); AP PHOTO (BANDIT AND R.J.)



## DUDE, IT'S A FLYING DOG!

You can't get much more daring than hang gliding—and that's fine with Patch the Queensland heeler. Grabbing the front bar with his paws, this real-life bird dog soars 2,500 feet in the air while strapped to owner Greg Newnham. Seven years ago, Newnham, a hang gliding instructor, first strapped Patch into the harness. When Patch didn't object, his owner tried a few test hovers just above the ground. Still excited, Patch took his first flight and even today prances with anticipation when it's his turn to catch some air.

Why would a dog like flying? "Many dogs love the feel of the wind on their face," Neilson says. "Hang gliding would be the ultimate 'face out the window' experience for some dogs."

### EXTREME

# DOG SPORTS

Extreme dogs have a blast, but some take their passion for excitement to the next level and compete against other dogs.



**FRISBEE:** Maybe your dog can catch a Frisbee, but can it fling itself four to five feet off the ground or use its owner as a launchpad to snatch the disk from the air?

**DOCK DOGGIN':** Lots of dogs love water. Pooches that compete in dock competitions race across a dock and leap more than 25 feet across the water—all to retrieve a floating toy.

**SKIJORING:** Think sled-dog racing, only the dog is pulling a snow skier instead of a sled. Racing as fast as 15 miles an hour, these dogs share a need for speed and adventure.



### EXTREME

# BREEDS

A dog can't really be bred for skateboarding, but many dogs do have physical advantages that give them special skills.



**BREED:** BLOODHOUND  
**SPECIAL SKILL:** TRACKING

**WHY:** THEY HAVE SUCH A STRONG SENSE OF SMELL THAT THEY CAN DETECT SOMETHING THAT WAS THERE DAYS BEFORE THE DOG ARRIVED. THEIR LONG, FLOPPY EARS HELP THEM HOLD AND FIND SCENTS, TOO.







**BREED:** ST. BERNARD

**SPECIAL SKILL:** MOUNTAIN RESCUES

**WHY:** THEIR LARGE BODIES GIVE THEM STRENGTH AND STAMINA, AND HUGE FEET ARE IDEAL FOR TREKKING THROUGH THE SNOW.



**BREED:** NEWFOUNDLAND

**SPECIAL SKILL:** SWIMMING

**WHY:** THEIR DENSE COATS PROTECT THEM FROM ICY WATER, PLUS THEY HAVE WEBBED FEET.



**BREED:** FOX TERRIER

**SPECIAL SKILL:** DIGGING

**WHY:** THEIR SHOULDERS AND FRONT LEGS ARE ANGLED IN JUST THE RIGHT POSITION FOR DIGGING, AND THEIR SMALL SIZE IS PERFECT FOR WRIGGLING DOWN BURROWS.



**BREED:** GREYHOUND

**SPECIAL SKILL:** RUNNING

**WHY:** A GREYHOUND'S SLEEK STREAMLINED BODY MEANS LESS WIND RESISTANCE FOR FASTER SPEED. ITS LONG LEGS AND LUNG CAPACITY ALSO GIVE IT AN EDGE.



**BREED:** SIBERIAN HUSKY

**SPECIAL SKILL:** PULLING

**WHY:** WELL-DEVELOPED CHEST MUSCLES HELP THEM PULL SLEDS THROUGH SNOW. THICK COATS KEEP THEM WARM IN CHILLY WEATHER.



## TOTALLY "PAWSOME"

Some dogs are just built for extreme sports. Like a teenager in bulldog clothing, Tillman is a natural skateboarder because of his strength and size. As a pup, the bulldog was always trying to steal another dog's board, so owner Ron Davis got Tillman his own. He first learned to simply roll along without falling off. Now he's got mad skater skills, pushing the board with one or two legs and even turning by himself. "He doesn't like to quit," Davis says. "When I tell him it's time to go home, he takes his board far away to delay us leaving."

Extreme dogs know how to have fun—but they're also extremely good at something else. "The coolest part about Tillman isn't that he skateboards," Davis says. "It's how he makes people smile when they watch him."

Behind the Scenes  
of the New Movie

# Bedtime Stories

BY JAMIE KIFFEL-ALCHEH

In the new movie *Bedtime Stories*, the only thing weirder than the tales Skeeter Bronson tells his niece and nephew is the fact that they come true the next day. Sounds like a great chance to talk about, say, being rained on by gum balls or getting a sports car as a gift. But when Skeeter *does* try to use the magic for his own benefit, the magic turns freaky! NG KIDS checked out the secrets behind turning these bedtime stories into movie magic.

## Driving Lesson

One of Skeeter's bedtime stories sends him to ancient Greece, where he drives a speeding chariot pulled by four horses. But Skeeter, played by Adam Sandler, isn't the real driver. "Hidden inside the chariot was another guy—a professional horse wrangler—who managed the reins that were connected to the horses," director Adam Shankman says. "There was an eyehole so he could control the four horses at full speed."

## Star Quality

When a bedtime story launches Skeeter into space, it looks as if he's floating among the stars. But Sandler got help from a few "spacemen" you can't see. The actor was first suspended from wires so he'd look weightless. "All around him were stuntmen in blue outfits who tilted and moved him," Shankman says. The men's blue outfits matched the set's blue walls, floor, and ceiling. Everything but Sandler was later erased using computers and replaced with a starry background.

## Need A Lift?

During the Greek chariot race, a driver slides open a gate by pulling a ring, and elephants run out. "One time, the ring flew up where we couldn't reach it," animal trainer Steve Berens says. As everyone struggled to reach the ring, one of the elephants stepped in. "He lifted his leg so his trainer could step up on his knee and hoisted the trainer to his back," Berens says. "The trainer was able to grab the ring, so we didn't need a ladder."

## Red-Hot Horse

Instead of getting the red Ferrari sports car he tells a story about, Skeeter winds up with a red horse named Ferrari. The colorful animal was no computer trick. "We dyed a white horse with red vegetable dye," Berens says. "It was completely safe, but it didn't wash out. While the color was growing out of the coat, the horse went through a pink stage."



"SKEETACUS" COMPETES IN THE X-GAMES IN ANCIENT GREECE.



"JEREMIAH SKEETS" LASSOS SOME OUTLAWS.





**BUGSY THE HAMSTER CRAWLS ONTO SKEETER'S HEAD DURING A BEDTIME STORY.**

## Fancy Footwork

Skeeter appears to be walking around his niece and nephew's room, but look more closely: "One month into shooting, Adam broke his ankle and couldn't walk during the time we shot those scenes," Shankman says. So the director got sneaky. "I used a double (someone who looked like Sandler from the back) to show Skeeter walking away," he says. Other times, the camera focuses elsewhere while you hear footsteps, then cuts to a shot of Skeeter standing in a new spot as if he walked there.

## Other Worlds

Skeeter tells his niece and nephew bedtime stories based on real places and times. Movie makers were supersecret about those scenes, but here's the scoop on the real deals.

### STORY SCENE: OUTER SPACE

**REAL DEAL:** THERE ARE SO MANY STARS THAT EVEN SCIENTISTS DON'T KNOW THE EXACT NUMBER. SOME SCIENTISTS ESTIMATE IT COULD BE AS HIGH AS 70 SEXTILLION. THAT'S A 7 FOLLOWED BY 22 ZEROS.

### STORY SCENE: THE WILD WEST

**REAL DEAL:** AMERICAN-STYLE BLUE JEANS (THE KIND WITH METAL RIVETS) WERE INVENTED IN THE "WILD WEST"—THE WESTERN UNITED STATES FROM ABOUT 1870 TO ABOUT 1900. THE STURDY PANTS WERE CREATED FOR RUGGED GOLD MINERS.

### STORY SCENE: ANCIENT GREECE

**REAL DEAL:** MOST PEOPLE IMAGINE ANCIENT GREEKS WEARING TUNICS AND SANDALS. BUT WHEN THE WEATHER GOT CHILLY, THEY WORE CLOAKS, HATS, AND LEATHER BOOTS.



# You Could Already Be a Millionaire

5

ways you could stumble across valuable stuff.

BY TRACY PRZYBYSZ

**Y**ou never know when an ordinary task might make you rich. One man was cleaning his father's attic and found a rare recording of a Beatles practice session—worth about \$23,000. “There are treasures to be had, if you know what you’re looking for,” says Marsha Bemko, executive producer of the TV show *Antiques Roadshow*. Check out these treasures found in unexpected places.

1



**THE TREASURE: PAINTING BY FRANK TENNEY JOHNSON**

**FOUND: BY A KID AT HIS GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE**

**NOW WORTH: \$200,000**

Five-year-old Jacob Freed loved cowboys, which is why his grandparents' old cowboy painting wound up on his bedroom wall instead of in the trash after his grandparents moved. Curiosity about the painting eventually led Jacob and his parents online, where they discovered that other works from the painter, 20th-century Western American artist Frank Tenney Johnson, were selling for more than \$100,000. “Our chins hit the floor,” says Jacob's father, Mark. They later sold the painting for a whopping \$200,000.

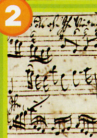
**THE TREASURE: 12TH-CENTURY PLATE**

**FOUND: ON THE ARMS OF AN OCTOPUS**

**NOW WORTH: AT LEAST \$30,000**

When a fisherman pulled up his net near Seoul, South Korea, he noticed all the octopuses had bits of pottery—plus one unbroken dinner plate—stuck to the suction cups on their arms. Turns out the octopuses had wrapped themselves around ancient pottery used by ruling families of the Koryo Dynasty. The pottery had been on a ship that sunk around A.D. 1150. The plate itself is worth more than \$30,000. No wonder divers returned to the fishing spot to scoop up the rest of the undersea treasures.

2



**THE TREASURE: HANDWRITTEN MUSIC BY JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH**

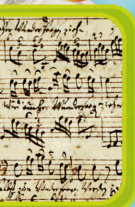
**FOUND: IN AN OFFICE**

**NOW WORTH: POSSIBLY \$1 MILLION**

Researcher Michael Maul was looking for clues about composer Johann Sebastian Bach's life when he spotted a crate of 18th-century documents in a library office. “I knew the library collected only manuscripts from around Bach's lifetime,” Maul says. Riffing through the crate, which contained hundreds of letters written to a German duke, Maul found an unexpected surprise: unpublished, handwritten music by Bach from 1713. The composer wrote the music to honor the duke on his birthday—a present now worth possibly a million dollars.

3





4



**THE TREASURE:  
A BOX OF SILVER  
COINS**

**FOUND: IN AN  
ATTIC**

**NOW WORTH:  
\$2,000**

This was real buried treasure—but it was buried under insulation in an attic. While working on his home's wiring, Matt Rodgers discovered a box tucked beneath the insulation. Inside was \$2,000 worth of silver dollars and quarters, along with notes from a father to his family. Instead of keeping the cash, he returned the box to the family. "If the roles had been reversed, I would have wanted my family heirlooms back," Rodgers says. "It was the right thing to do."

**THE TREASURE:  
POSTCARD FROM  
ANNE FRANK**

**FOUND: IN A  
BOX OF ANTIQUE  
CARDS IN A STORE**

**NOW WORTH:  
MORE THAN  
\$165,000**

Paul van den Heuvel wanted to teach his students about the Netherlands' 1945 Liberation Day—when Germans were driven out of the country during World War II—by showing them items from that time period. Picking through a box of old but inexpensive postcards in his father's antique shop, van den Heuvel spotted a 1937 postcard from Anne Frank, a girl best known for the diary she kept while hiding from the German Nazis during the war. Previous Anne Frank letters have sold for \$165,000, but experts think this postcard is worth much more.



5

© CORBIS BETT / JAMPINE, C. D. JURET / ALAMY (MONEY); IMAGE DIGITALLY COMPOSSED; ANNA AMALIA BIELLOTH; MAGGIE NEUTERS / NO NEW PLATE; WILLIAM COLLEY / NOVATO ADVANCE (COIN)



# 10 Cool Things About the TOWER OF LONDON

BY C.M. TOMLIN

As a palace, the **Tower of London** was a great place to live. As a prison, it wasn't so nice—especially since so many **prisoners** lost their heads! The place has been a lot of things in its nearly **1,000-year-old** history. Today **tourists** can explore the Tower, in England, in the United Kingdom. Here are **ten reasons** why the Tower was—and still is—a **cool place** to be (as long as you weren't a prisoner, that is).



**1** Ravens are like local superheroes. Well, sort of. Legend says if the **ravens** that live on the Tower grounds ever leave, the Tower will crumble and a **disaster** will befall England. No one knows when the ravens first showed up, but **Charles II** took the legend so seriously that in the **1670s** he decreed that six ravens be kept there all the time. Today there are still always six—plus a couple of **spares**, just in case.

**2** You might have lived at a zoo. In 1204, **King John** kept a collection of animals, including **lions**, leopards, and elephants. About 50 years later, King Henry III received a **polar bear**. The bear was kept on a leash so it could fish from the **Thames River** that flows by the Tower.

**3** If you lived at the Tower today, your mom or dad might be in charge. The 35 **Yeoman Warders** and their families are among the few still allowed to live at the **Tower**. Established in 1509 as **bodyguards** for the king, today they give tours and manage the day-to-day details of the Tower. They're called "**beefeaters**," possibly because their job once allowed them to eat beef from the **king's table**.

**4** You need a secret password at night. Called the "**Word**," the password changes every **24 hours** and is a **must-have** to enter the Tower after hours. It's **written** on a piece of paper and delivered to the **Yeoman** on duty for the night.

**5** You might see a ghost. Queen Anne Boleyn, who was **executed** on orders from her husband, **King Henry VIII**, is said to wander the grounds without her **head**. One building is believed to be so **haunted** that dogs refuse to enter.

**6** You could've been rich. During Henry VIII's reign, the Tower housed the **Royal Mint**, which produced England's **silver coins**. It's said the staff was worked so hard that when one **employee** finally got a break, he **slept** for 15 days straight.





**7** You'd have lots of bling. England's **crown jewels** are still guarded in the Tower's **Jewel House**, a dazzling display of crowns, **robes**, jewelry, and scepters that goes back hundreds of years. More than **23,500 diamonds**, sapphires, rubies, and other gems adorn the **royal collection**.

**8** You might have met a celebrity. In the 1400s, King Henry VI hosted huge, noisy tournaments, in which **knights** with long lances jousted on **horses**. The more lances a knight could break while knocking his **opponent** from the saddle, the more **famous** he became.

**9** You could find buried gold. In 1662, a **goldsmith** named John Barkstead supposedly hid more than **\$40,000** worth of stolen **gold** somewhere on Tower grounds. Many have **searched** for the loot, but it has never been found.

**10** You'd never have to worry about a prison break. The Tower was so secure only a few **escape attempts** succeeded. In 1716, one man sneaked out dressed in **women's clothing**. In 1100, a prisoner threw such a wild **party** for guards they didn't notice him climbing over the wall to meet a waiting **boat**!

# Squirrelre

AT FIRST,  
HEINZ  
WAS TINY.



FED WITH  
A SYRINGE,  
HEINZ GREW  
STRONGER.



HEINZ, A  
EUROPEAN  
SQUIRREL,  
QUICKLY  
LEARNED  
TO FIND  
FOOD.





BY SCOTT ELDER

# Rescue

**A**fter a terrible, windy thunderstorm, a tiny baby squirrel lay motionless on a forest floor in Germany, a country in Europe. Kai Jeworreck came across the little orphan while out for a walk. The European squirrel was so young it had just begun to grow fur and its eyes were still shut. Jeworreck gently picked up the newborn. Its body felt cold and still. But then, in the warmth of his hands, the squirrel wriggled its legs slightly. Jeworreck tucked it inside his jacket and rushed home.

**THE ORPHAN'S RESCUER** found the telephone number for Squirrel Emergency—a German organization that helps injured and orphaned squirrels. They instructed him to keep the little squirrel warm and to give it an energy drink of tea, salt, and sugar. Then Jeworreck drove it to the home of Heike Boellert, one of the organization's volunteers.

She quickly determined that the three-week-old male squirrel was in very bad shape. He had pneumonia, which made it very hard for him to breathe. But Boellert was most worried about the crooked way he held his head. She took her new patient, whom she named Heinz, to a veterinarian. It turned out that he had a concussion from a bump to his head when he fell out of the nest.

**IN NEED OF INTENSIVE CARE,** Boellert took Heinz home with her. She was already rehabilitating four other orphaned squirrels. To imitate the constant attention and cuddling Heinz would have received from his mother in the wild, Boellert put the baby squirrel in a soft, warm pouch that she wore around her neck. Along with antibiotics and vitamins, Boellert carefully fed him small amounts of special milk through a syringe every two hours—even at night.



NOW FREE AND INDEPENDENT,  
HEINZ LIVES IN THE FOREST.

**A helpless baby survives a violent storm, thanks to caring people.**



HEINZ SOMETIMES VISITS  
HIS OLD HOME FOR A SNACK.

**AFTER A FEW DAYS** of round-the-clock TLC, Heinz's health improved. He opened his eyes for the first time. His head healed quickly and he became very active, so Boellert moved Heinz into a big box where he could practice scampering around. Boellert continued to snuggle with Heinz, and he often climbed onto her shoulder. The two had formed a close bond, but he could not become a pet—young Heinz was being prepared for a return to the wild.

After a few weeks, Heinz's teeth grew in and he faced his first survival lesson: Boellert gave him a nut. It took him many tries, but eventually he cracked it open. Next Boellert moved him to a large cage furnished with branches for climbing practice. The last stage of his preparation for release was for Boellert to end all close contact with Heinz so that he could learn what he was: a wild squirrel. Heinz moved in with the four other squirrels in a huge outside enclosure. "That way Heinz could get used to the temperatures, smells, and noises outside," says Moni Rademacher, another volunteer.

**NINE WEEKS AFTER** Heinz arrived at her home, Boellert opened the door on the enclosure and walked away. Heinz and the other squirrels explored the yard and the nearby forest. Boellert dropped plenty of nuts in the yard so the squirrels would be well fed while they learned to rely on their instincts to find food on their own and build nests in the trees.

Heinz now has his own territory in the wild, but he didn't move far away from Boellert. Although he has no trouble finding food in the woods, Heinz often drops by Boellert's house anyway to say hello and get a few nuts from his old friend. Boellert is very proud of Heinz: "A teeny fighter became a survivor!"



# THE LOST CITY OF POMPEII

When will the volcano that buried this ancient civilization blow again?

BY KRISTIN BAIRD RATTINI



AUGUST 24, A.D. 79

A deafening boom roars through Pompeii's crowded marketplace. The ground shakes violently, throwing the midday shoppers off balance and toppling stands of fish and meat. People start screaming and pointing toward Mount Vesuvius, a massive volcano that rises above the bustling city, located in what is now southern Italy.

Vesuvius had been silent for nearly 2,000 years, but it roared back to life, shooting ash and smoke some 20 miles into the air. Almost overnight, the city and most of its residents vanished under a blanket of ash and lava.

Now, almost 2,000 years later, scientists agree that Vesuvius is overdue for another major eruption—but no one knows when it

will happen. Three million people live in the volcano's shadow, in the modern-day city of Naples, Italy. Correctly predicting when the eruption will take place will make the difference between life and death.

## THE SKY IS FALLING

Through excavations that started in 1748 and continue to this day, scientists have been able to recreate almost exactly what happened in Pompeii on that terrible day.

"The thick ash turned everything black," says Pompeii expert Andrew Wallace-Hadrill. "People couldn't see the sun. All the landmarks disappeared. They didn't have the foggiest idea which way they were going."

Some people ran for their lives, clutching their valuable coins and jewelry. Other

people took shelter in their homes. But the debris kept falling. Piles grew as deep as nine feet in some places, blocking doorways and caving in roofs.

Around midnight, the first of four searing-hot clouds, or surges, of ash, pumice, rock, and toxic gas rushed down the mountainside. Traveling toward Pompeii at up to 180 miles an hour, it scorched everything in its path. Around 7 a.m., 18 hours after the eruption, the last fiery surge buried the city.

## LOST AND FOUND

Visiting the ruins of Pompeii today is like going back in time. The layers of ash actually helped preserve buildings, artwork, and even the forms of bodies. "It gives you the

THIS ARTIST'S CONCEPT RE-CREATES THE FORUM AT POMPEII AS IT LOOKED THE DAY OF THE ERUPTION IN A.D. 79. THE FORUM WAS THE CENTER OF PUBLIC LIFE.



feeling you can reach out and touch the ancient world," Wallace-Hadrill says.

There are kitchens with pots left on the stove and bakeries with loaves of bread—now turned to charcoal—still in the ovens. Narrow corridors lead to magnificent mansions with elaborate gardens and fountains. Mosaics, or designs made out of tiles, decorate the walls and floors. Some houses even have mosaics of guard dogs with "Beware of dog" written in Latin, the language of the Pompeians.

Ancient graffiti, including love notes and other messages, is carved into buildings. Some graffiti even lists the results of gladiator matches at the amphitheater—an ancient outdoor arena—where trained fighters once battled to the death.

## WARNING SIGNS

Pompeii may be ancient history, but there's little doubt that disaster will strike again. Luckily people living near Vesuvius today will likely receive evacuation warnings before the volcano blows.

Scientists are closely monitoring Vesuvius for shifts in the ground, earthquakes, and rising levels of certain gases, which could be signs of an upcoming eruption. The Italian government is also working on a plan to help people flee the area in an emergency.

It's a shame Pompeians didn't know what we now know about volcanoes. They could have lived on to tell the story of the city that was lost in time.

## CREEPY CASTS

Volcanic ash settled around many of the victims at the moment of death. When the bodies decayed, holes remained inside the solid ash. Scientists poured plaster into the holes to preserve the shapes of the victims.



# Naughty PETS

CAUGHT  
ON CAMERA

I'D BETTER  
LICK THIS TO  
MAKE SURE IT'S  
OK FOR THEM  
TO EAT.



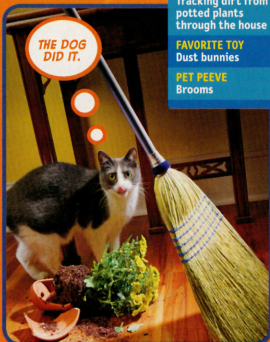
**NAME** Franklin

**FAVORITE ACTIVITY**  
Taste-testing meals for  
restaurant reviews

**FAVORITE TOY**  
Giant turkey leg

**PET PEEVE**  
Frozen dinners

THE DOG  
DID IT.



**NAME** Ishmael

**FAVORITE ACTIVITY**  
Tracking dirt from  
potted plants  
through the house

**FAVORITE TOY**  
Dust bunnies

**PET PEEVE**  
Brooms

I THINK THE  
GOLDFISH WILL  
BE VERY HAPPY  
IN THIS NEW  
BOWL.



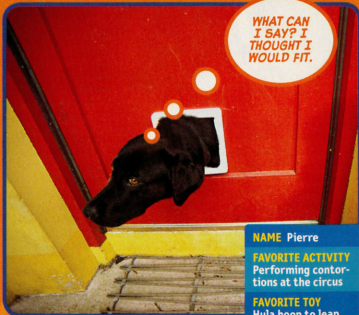
**NAME** Bobbi

**FAVORITE ACTIVITY**  
Exploring  
underwater caves  
that start in the  
bathroom

**FAVORITE TOY**  
Wadded-up  
toilet paper

**PET PEEVE**  
Flushing

WHAT CAN  
I SAY? I  
THOUGHT I  
WOULD FIT.



**NAME** Pierre

**FAVORITE ACTIVITY**  
Performing contor-  
tions at the circus

**FAVORITE TOY**  
Hula hoop to leap  
through

**PET PEEVE** Tiny dogs



# Fun Stuff

games, laughs, and lots to do!



# Valentine's Day Recipes!

Ask for a parent's help and permission before you get started.

Win your family's hearts by making these fun foods for Valentine's Day on February 14.

## Cupid's Arrow Pizza

### YOU WILL NEED

- HEART-SHAPED COOKIE CUTTER (OPTIONAL)
- ROASTED RED PEPPERS
- PEPPERONI SLICES
- 1 OR 2 READY-MADE PIZZA CRUSTS
- OLIVE OIL
- READY-MADE PIZZA SAUCE
- 8-OUNCE BAG OF ITALIAN-BLEND SHREDDED CHEESE

### WHAT TO DO

With an adult's help, use a knife or cookie cutter to shape the red peppers and pepperoni slices into hearts. Then cut one crust into a heart shape, saving the excess crust for later. Spread a thin layer of olive oil on the heart-shaped crust. Top with pizza sauce and then cheese. Arrange the peppers and pepperoni hearts on the pizza. Form the arrow shape out of pieces of leftover crust or cut it out of a second crust. Top the arrow with a little olive oil. Bake the pizza according to the directions on the pizza crust package. Then, as the Italians say, "Buon appetito!"



## Strawberry Sorbet

### YOU WILL NEED

- 1 POUND BAG OF FROZEN, UNSWEETENED STRAWBERRIES
- 1/2 CUP SUGAR
- 1/2 CUP BUTTERMILK
- 1 TABLESPOON LEMON JUICE
- WHIPPED CREAM (OPTIONAL)
- BLENDER OR FOOD PROCESSOR

### WHAT TO DO

Place the strawberries and sugar in a blender or food processor, then pulse to mix. Combine the buttermilk and lemon juice in a separate bowl. Add the buttermilk mixture to the strawberries. Blend for several seconds until smooth. Top with whipped cream if desired. Makes four servings.



## Fruit Bouquet

### YOU WILL NEED

- TALL, NARROW VASE
- STYROFOAM BALL THAT FITS SNUGLY INSIDE YOUR VASE
- STRAWBERRIES
- RASPBERRIES
- RED GRAPES
- OTHER COLORFUL FRUITS, SUCH AS CANTALOUPE, PINEAPPLE, KIWIS, AND BLUEBERRIES
- WOODEN SKEWERS

### WHAT TO DO

Place the Styrofoam ball inside the vase and set aside. Then wash and dry the berries and grapes. Ask a parent to help you cut the fruit: Stem the strawberries, remove the cantaloupe and pineapple rinds and the kiwi skins, then cut the fruits into bite-size pieces. Slide the fruit onto the skewers, alternating colors, and using plenty of red fruit for Valentine's Day. Fill each skewer to the top, but leave two inches without fruit at the bottom. Poke the empty ends of the skewers into the Styrofoam at angles. Make sure they are stable. Top with extra fruit to cover the Styrofoam. Then give your bouquet to someone special.







# THE BUCK DROP\$ HERE!

**HOWDY!  
I'M MAC KING.**

TO PERFORM THIS TRICK YOU'LL  
NEED A CRISP NEW DOLLAR  
BILL. IF YOU DON'T HAVE A  
DOLLAR, QUIT READING  
THIS AND GET A JOB.  
WE'LL WAIT.



**1** SHOW A FRIEND  
THE DOLLAR AND TELL  
HIM THAT HE CAN HAVE IT  
IF HE PASSES A SIMPLE TEST.  
TO DEMONSTRATE THE TEST,  
HOLD THE DOLLAR IN ONE  
HAND AND DANGLE IT BETWEEN  
THE INDEX FINGER AND THUMB  
OF YOUR OTHER HAND.



**2** THEN DROP THE BILL AND  
CATCH IT BETWEEN YOUR  
FINGERS. THIS MAKES IT  
LOOK EASY. NOW LET  
YOUR FRIEND TRY.



**3** DANGLE THE BILL BETWEEN YOUR FRIEND'S FINGERS  
AND INSTRUCT HIM TO CATCH IT THE MOMENT  
YOU DROP IT.



WITHOUT GIVING ANY  
WARNING, DROP THE BILL.

**4** NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES HE TRIES...

## He can't



## catch

## the dollar.



**5** YOUR SIMPLE  
TEST HAS PROVEN THAT  
YOU ALONE ARE WORTHY  
OF DOLLAR BILL OWNERSHIP.  
CELEBRATE! SPEND IT ON  
SOMETHING FUN LIKE SOME  
DAY-OLD BREAD OR AN  
OLD SHOE. YOU'VE  
EARNED IT!



## Howdy Doit?

IT IS UNLIKELY THAT YOUR FRIEND  
CAN CATCH THE DOLLAR (EVEN IF HE  
DOES HAVE CHIMPLIKE REFLEXES)!  
WHY? BECAUSE IT TAKES TOO LONG  
FOR THE NECESSARY INFORMATION TO  
TRAVEL FROM HIS EYES TO HIS BRAIN  
AND THEN BACK TO HIS FINGERS.



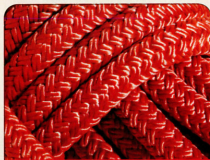
# What in the World?

Play interactive "What in the World?" and other games online.  
kids.nationalgeographic.com

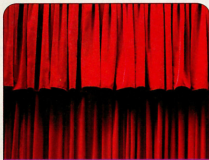


## SEEING RED

These photographs show close-up and faraway views of things that are red. Unscramble the letters to identify what's in each picture. **ANSWERS ON PAGE 38**



POER



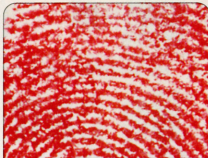
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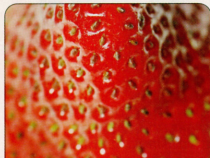
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TOP ROW LEFT TO RIGHT: THOMAS NATHAN / GETTY IMAGES, OREGON SOCIETY / GETTY IMAGES, AIR CRAFTS / GETTY IMAGES, MIDDLE ROW LEFT TO RIGHT: NANA TEARLE / STOCKNET / GETTY IMAGES, © WALT DISNEY / COURTESY EVERETT COLLECTION, PETER WALLER / GETTY IMAGES, BOTTOM ROW LEFT TO RIGHT: JASON / GETTY IMAGES, © BURBANK / ALAMY, BRAND NORDAND / GETTY IMAGES

# Funny FILL-IN

## On Thin Ice

BY JILL YAWORSKI

Ask a friend to give you words to fill in the blanks in this story without showing it to him or her. Then read out loud for a laugh.

I tried ice-skating for the first time today and I guess you could say I had beginner's luck. I picked out the \_\_\_\_\_ skates and laced them up in \_\_\_\_\_ knots. \_\_\_\_\_ I stepped onto the \_\_\_\_\_ ice. I \_\_\_\_\_ off the wall and into the middle of the rink. So far, so good. Then, out of nowhere, a group of \_\_\_\_\_ athletes \_\_\_\_\_ by me at about \_\_\_\_\_ miles an hour. Somehow I had skated into the middle of an ice \_\_\_\_\_ game! The next thing I knew, I was \_\_\_\_\_ all over the ice. As I attempted to \_\_\_\_\_ around the players, I saw a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ coming straight toward me. Before I could move out of the way, it hit my \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ off my \_\_\_\_\_. I tried to stay on my feet, but began \_\_\_\_\_ around and around. Instead of creating a figure eight, I was making a figure \_\_\_\_\_. When I finally came to a stop, a loud buzzer sounded and the players yelled, " \_\_\_\_\_ !" That's when I discovered I had accidentally scored a goal and won the game!



# Art Zone

## AWESOME SUPERPOWERS

NG KIDS readers flex their creative muscle in these drawings of superpowers they would most like to have.



▲ **Invisible Boy**  
Dean Marchant, 11  
Los Gatos, California



▼ **Dream Big**  
Noelle Van Lerberghe, 10  
Golden, Colorado



▲ **I Believe I Can Fly**  
Megan Foister, 10  
Saegertown, Pennsylvania

▼ **Two-Ton Strong Guy**  
Max Kowalczyk, 13  
Honesdale, Pennsylvania



▲ **Mystic Water**  
Jessica Bennett, 11  
Newport News, Virginia

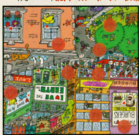
## Draw a wacky or unusual sandwich.

Send your original drawings to  
NG KIDS—Sandwich Art Zone  
P.O. Box 98002  
Washington, DC 20090-8002

Include your name, address, phone number, date of birth, a title for your drawing, a statement that it is your own work, and the name of your parent or guardian. Your parent or guardian must sign a release for publication of your illustration. Submissions become the property of the National Geographic Society, and all rights thereto are transferred to the National Geographic Society. Submissions cannot be acknowledged or returned. Selection will be at the discretion of NG KIDS.

## Answers

double-decker bus, chili peppers,  
print. Bottom row: sage, straw, finger-  
nail. Middle row: nail polish, dash, needle.  
Top row: rope, sage, curtain, needle.



“Change of Heart” (page 33)

## A Note to Parents

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P.O. Box 63001  
Tampa, FL 33663-3001**

Please note that the Society will never disclose your child's name to anyone for marketing or promotional purposes, or for any other purpose except as required by law.



**Animal Transformation**  
Brien Stutzman, 10  
London, Ohio

**Heat Blast**  
Errol Charette, Jr., 11  
Taunton, Massachusetts



**Electroboy**  
Sammy Robles, 8  
Avenal, California



**Me And My Clones**  
Adrianna Garcia, 9  
Garden Grove, California

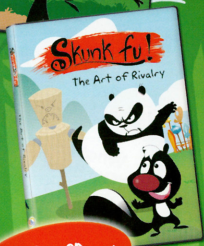


**Superdoctor**  
Emily Underhill, 11  
Westford, Massachusetts

**Laser Beam Do-It-Yourself Homework**  
Mia Atherton, 12  
Salt Lake City, Utah



# Totally Kicking DVDs!



As Seen on  
Cartoon Network!

Buy Now – so you  
too can learn to kick  
some monkey butt!



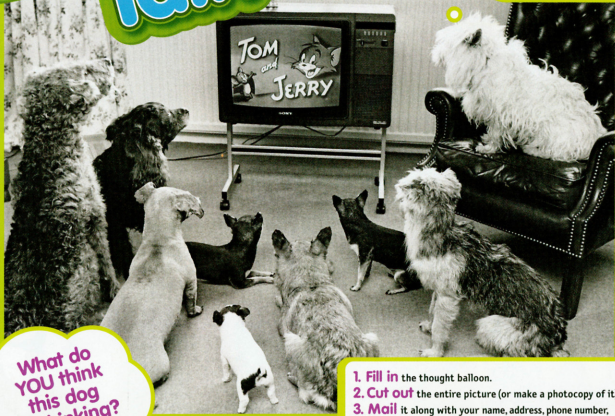
Action Figures  
Coming Soon!

[www.NCircleEntertainment.com](http://www.NCircleEntertainment.com)



# Back Talk

Too bad we don't have a big-screen TV.



What do  
YOU think  
this dog  
is thinking?

1. Fill in the thought balloon.
2. Cut out the entire picture (or make a photocopy of it).
3. Mail it along with your name, address, phone number, and date of birth to NG KIDS, Back Talk, P.O. Box 96000, WASHINGTON, DC 20090-6000. Selection for publication in a future issue will be at the discretion of NG KIDS.



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## From the October Issue

I'm so glad we chose the Dead Sea for our honeymoon.

Abby Decter, 11  
Los Angeles, California

This desert is bone-dry.

Emily Havenor, 9  
Grove City, Ohio

What in the world happened to, "Till death do us part"?

Ryan Pause, 12  
Adams, Massachusetts

Do you think we've been out here too long?

Bristol Lovey, 9  
Austin, Texas

I've got a bone to pick with him.

Tony Burns, 11  
Suffolk, Virginia

Wow, he's dead silent!

Kai Ebata, 11  
Urbana, Illinois

Gimme some skin!

Mark DeLong, 11  
Seymour, Tennessee

OK, from the top: The hand bone's connected to the...

Elly Hudson, 10  
San Jose, California